

## Message Text

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47

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 CU-02 /055 W

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R 221640Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7427

USIA WASHDC

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY PARIS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PDIP, PINR, PINT, SOPN, NL, US

SUBJECT: PUBLICATION OF STORY ON ALLEGED CIA ACTIVITIES IN  
NETHERLANDS

REF: THE HAGUE 299

1. DUTCH LEFTIST WEEKLY "VRIJ NEDERLAND" WHICH APPEARED JAN 21  
CARRIED SLOPPY AND POORLY RESEARCHED ARTICLE ON CIA IN HOLLAND,  
GIVING NAMES OF ALLEGED EMPLOYEES. RUN UNDER HEADLINE "THE  
ACTIVITIES OF THE CIA IN THE NETHERLANDS" AND SUBHEADED "THE  
NAMES OF AGENTS AND THE POLITICIANS," ARTICLE DRAWS HEAVILY ON  
MATERIAL PREVIOUSLY PUBLISHED ELSEWHERE AND TRIES MAKE CONNECTION  
BETWEEN AGENCY AND INTERNATIONAL VISITORS PROGRAM. ENGLISH TRANS-  
LATION POUCHED EUR/NE.

2. FOCUSING HEAVILY ON ACTIVITIES OF USIA ("A CIA SECTION WHICH  
DISTRIBUTES INFORMATION"), THE ARTICLE WAS ACCOMPANIED BY A  
TWO-COLUMN PHOTOGRAPH OF D'66 PARLIAMENTARY FLOOR LEADER, HANS  
VAN MIERLO, A FORMER LEADER GRANTEE. ARTICLE ALSO GIVES NAMES  
OF A NUMBER OF LABOR PARTY PARLIAMENTARIANS AND A LABOR PARTY  
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STATE SECRETARY WHO HAVE RECEIVED VISITOR GRANTS. REACTION

OF VAN MIERLO AND LABOR PARTY PARLIAMENTARIANS HAS BEEN SHARP AND CRITICAL. PRESS RELEASES ISSUED BY PARLIAMENTARIANS EVENING OF JAN 21 EMPHATICALLY STATE THAT INDIVIDUALS WERE FREE TO MAKE OWN TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS, SELECT PLACES TO VISIT AND PERSONS TO BE SEEN. LABOR PARTY RELEASE POINTS OUT THAT VISITOR PROGRAM FALLS WITHIN BUREAU OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS OF DEPARTMENT, THAT IT IS A PUBLIC PROGRAM (SIMILAR TO THOSE OF OTHER COUNTRIES), AND THAT FUNDING IS OPEN AND ABOVE BOARD.

3. PARLIAMENTARY LABOR PARTY PRESS RELEASE NOTES THAT FOR SEVERAL YEARS PARTY'S POSITION HAS BEEN THAT DUTCH GOVERNMENT SHOULD NOT GIVE APPROVAL FOR STATIONING OF FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE PERSONNEL IN THE NETHERLANDS. PARTY REPRESENTATIVE ON STANDING COMMITTEE FOR INTELLIGENCE SERVICES WILL RAISE MATTER AGAIN WHEN COMMITTEE NEXT MEETS.

4. DUTCH PRESS TODAY CARRIES A NUMBER OF NEWS STORIES ABOUT PUBLICATION OF "VRIJ NEDERLAND" ARTICLE. ALL MEDIA ACCOUNTS HAVE BEEN RELATIVELY LOW KEY AND INCLUDE EMBASSY COMMENTS WHICH RELIED ON DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN'S JAN 13 STATEMENT. CONSERVATIVE "DE TELEGRAAF," COUNTRY'S LARGEST CIRCULATION NEWSPAPER, HEADLINES ITS STORY "KGB IS 10 TIMES STRONGER HERE THAN CIA" AND NOTES THAT CIA PRESENCE IN COUNTRY IS NO SECRET. PAPER COMMENTS THAT PRIME MINISTER DEN UYL TOLD PARLIAMENT SOME TIME AGO THAT THERE WAS NO NEED TO GO INTO QUESTION.

5. FACT THAT ARTICLE WAS POORLY RESEARCHED AND REplete WITH FAR-LEFT SENTIMENT IN ADDITION TO NUMEROUS ERRORS OF FACT IS LIKELY LESSEN IMPACT OF STORY. CHAIRMAN OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE IN LOWER HOUSE DANKERT, WHO MENTIONED IN ARTICLE AS HAVING TRAVELED TO US ON GRANT, TOLD EMBOFF THAT, ALTHOUGH SOME PEOPLE WHO ARE READY TO BELIEVE ANYTHING WILL BE FASCINATED BY ARTICLE, INTEREST WILL DISAPPEAR WITHIN THREE DAYS. EMBASSY TENDS BELIEVE HIS ESTIMATE WILL PROVE CORRECT. IN MEANTIME, HAGUE POLICE, ACTING ON THEIR OWN, HAVE INCREASED PATROLS AROUND HOUSES OF INDIVIDUALS NAMED IN ARTICLE. ONLY ONE RESIDENCE STREET ADDRESS LISTED IN STORY.  
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## Message Attributes

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